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(632) 552-9907

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INVESTING IN PEOPLE

(Education)

USAID helps in training of English mentors

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A Department of Education (DepEd) “Training of Trainers” (TOT) of selected educators, who will later be tasked to train English teachers in public elementary schools in three Muslim-Christian regions, was held on April 14-18 through the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Mindanao-based project Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQUALLS2).

The TOT, a component of the DepEd’s National English Proficiency Program (NEPP), was participated in by master teachers and field English supervisors of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), Central Mindanao (Region 12), and selected professors of local teacher-education tertiary schools.

Improving English proficiency of teachers and students is high on the President and the national government’s education priorities in view of recent studies showing that the Philippines has been losing its English proficiency advantage over neighboring countries.

Education Undersecretary for Programs and Projects Vilma Labrador explained in a memorandum that the TOT sought to equip the educator-participants with appropriate knowledge and skills in basic grammar and strategies in teaching beginning reading to local school children, in response to the low proficiency levels in English comprehension and fluency as revealed by previous training needs assessment (TNA) and diagnostic test of teachers in

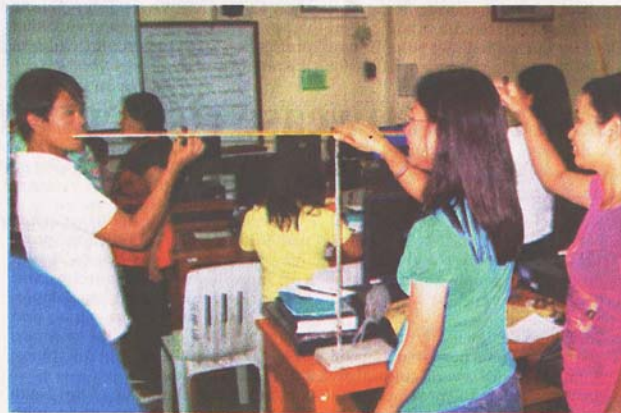
the three regions which cover the areas served by EQUALLS2.

The training, Labrador said, also aimed to enhance the participants’ knowledge in subject content and their training and facilitation skills.

The education department executive said the TOT completers – who came from the DepEd schools divisions of Basilan, Isabela City, Sulu, Zamboanga del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, North Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zamboanga City – will later be deployed in their respective areas of

responsibility to conduct echo training for Grades 1, 2, and 3 English teachers who, in turn, are expected to implement their skills training starting in school year 2008-2009.

The training was conducted by DepEd-NEPP facilitators led by DepEd Bureau of Elementary Education Director Yolanda Quijano and Southern TagalogA DepEd regional director Paraluman Giron, and English subject specialists from various Metro Manila teacher-education institutions of higher learning. (Tony Rimando)



TRAINING OF ZAMBOANGA TEACHERS. Teachers from Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Isabela City, and Zamboanga City participate in a two-day English and science training program conducted by the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education on the use of Constec (Continuing Studies via Technology) DVDs as a classroom tool. The Mindanao leg (in photo) was held at the Ateneo de Zamboanga in Zamboanga City, the first stop of the annual summer workshop.

(Source: Manila Bulletin, 5/7/08, page 16)